

## Senate Resolution 110 - Introduced

### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 110

#### BY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

1 A Resolution honoring Senator Joe Bolkcom for his  
2 service in the Iowa Senate.

3 WHEREAS, Senator Joseph L. Bolkcom was born in  
4 Bloomington, Minnesota, engendering in him a lifelong  
5 allegiance to the Minnesota Twins and Vikings, and grew  
6 up in Moline, Illinois, part of a large Irish-Catholic  
7 family nurtured by his parents, Lloyd and Nancy, who  
8 instilled in their nine children a love for reading and  
9 learning, the virtues of hard work and perseverance, an  
10 appreciation for one's own good fortune and the plight  
11 of those less fortunate, the importance of social  
12 justice and activism, a passion for politics rooted in  
13 compassion, and a love of their Irish heritage; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Bolkcom received his A.A. degree in  
15 political science from Black Hawk College, a B.A. in  
16 sociology from St. Ambrose University, and an M.A. in  
17 public affairs from the University of Iowa, and helped  
18 found and direct two senior advocacy organizations,  
19 worked for the Johnson County Health Department, and  
20 served on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Bolkcom was first elected to  
22 the Iowa Senate in 1998, and during his six terms  
23 has continued the proud tradition of progressive  
24 public servants from Johnson County, serving on  
25 numerous boards and committees; as a member of the  
26 Appropriations, Commerce, Environment and Energy  
27 Independence, Human Resources, Judiciary, Labor  
28 and Business Relations, Natural Resources, Natural

1 Resources and Environment, Rules and Administration,  
2 State Government, and Ways and Means standing  
3 committees and the Health and Human Services  
4 Appropriations Subcommittee; as Ranking Member of the  
5 Appropriations, Ethics, Local Government, and Ways and  
6 Means standing committees and the Health and Human  
7 Rights Appropriations Subcommittee; as Vice Chairperson  
8 of the Health and Human Services Appropriations  
9 Subcommittee; as Chairperson of the Ways and Means  
10 standing committee; and as Assistant Majority Leader,  
11 Assistant Democratic Leader, and Majority Whip; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Bolkcom's accomplishments include  
13 helping to expand Iowa's earned income tax credit;  
14 increase the price of tobacco products and end smoking  
15 in public places and workplaces; deter car title loan  
16 sharks; extend overdue civil rights protections to  
17 LGBTQ Iowans; strengthen voting rights; bring health  
18 care and mental health services to Iowa families;  
19 address environmental challenges; create solar tax  
20 credit incentives; and establish and expand the  
21 Iowa medical cannabis program as well as work to  
22 decriminalize recreational marijuana; and

23 WHEREAS, Senator Bolkcom has also addressed these  
24 fundamental issues as the Outreach and Community  
25 Education Director for the University of Iowa Center  
26 for Global and Regional Environmental Research and  
27 the Iowa Flood Center and through his involvement in  
28 organizations such as the Iowa Civil Liberties Union;  
29 the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club; the American  
30 Federation of Teachers, Local 716; the Iowa Bicycle

1 Coalition; and the Progressive States Network; and  
2 WHEREAS, while Senator Bolkcom describes himself as  
3 a vegetarian, runner, cyclist, gardener, cook, vintage  
4 tie collector, and pro-science and his legislative  
5 philosophy as doing extensive research and listening  
6 to all sides, the signature debating style of this  
7 relentless champion for the environment, human and  
8 civil rights, public education, those living in  
9 poverty, Iowa's working families, and those who have no  
10 voice, may best be described, by those on the receiving  
11 end, as resembling a finishing move, a concept familiar  
12 to this pro wrestling aficionado from the time he  
13 shuttled World Wide Wrestling Federation superstar  
14 Andre "The Giant" Roussimoff around in his father's  
15 Cadillac; and

16 WHEREAS, while Senator Bolkcom has expressed  
17 heartfelt gratitude for the trust, guidance, and strong  
18 support he has received from the people of Iowa City  
19 and Johnson County and has called his legislative seat  
20 one of the best political jobs in the country, his  
21 colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, acknowledge  
22 that as he retires from the Senate, Senator Bolkcom  
23 leaves big shoes to fill and that his experience, hard  
24 work, and commitment to the people of Iowa will be  
25 missed beyond measure; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate honors  
27 Senator Joe Bolkcom for his years of service in the  
28 Iowa Senate, and wishes him, his spouse Kris Bell, and  
29 their family more quality time on the trails and all  
30 the best in the years to come.